IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) [[In a]] A data processing system ~~having~~ comprising:

a. a first ~~user terminal~~ client work station for entering a first transaction request, wherein said first transaction request has a first one of a plurality of protocols~~, responsively coupled via~~;

b. a ~~publicly available digital communication network to~~ an enterprise server for responding to said first transaction request using an enterprise protocol which is not one of said plurality of protocols~~, the improvement comprising:~~;

[[a]] c. a second ~~user terminal~~ client work station for entering a second transaction request wherein said second transaction request has a second one of said plurality of protocols which is different from said first one of said plurality of protocols responsively coupled to said enterprise server via said ~~publicly available~~ digital communication network; and

[[b]] d. a generic gateway interposed between said first user terminal and said enterprise server and between said second user terminal and said enterprise server which responsively couples said first ~~user terminal~~ client work station and said

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second ~~user terminal~~ <u>client work station</u> to said enterprise
server by converting said first one and said second one of said
plurality of protocols to said enterprise protocol.

2.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The improvement~~ <u>A data processing system</u>
according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of adapters
interposed between said generic gateway and said first ~~user~~
~~terminal~~ <u>client work station</u> and said second ~~user terminal~~ <u>client</u>
<u>work station</u> which responsively couples said first ~~user terminal~~
<u>client work station</u> to said generic gateway via a first one of
said plurality of adapters which corresponds to said first one of
said plurality of protocols and which responsively couples said
second ~~user terminal~~ <u>client work station</u> to said generic gateway
via a second one of said plurality of adapters which corresponds
to said second one of said plurality of protocols.

3.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The improvement~~ <u>A data processing system</u>
according to claim 2 wherein said ~~publicly available~~ digital
communication network further comprises the internet.

4.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The improvement~~ <u>A data processing system</u>
according to claim 3 further comprising ~~an Industry Standard~~ <u>a</u>
Server housing said generic gateway and providing a middleware
environment.

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5. (Currently Amended) ~~The improvement~~ <u>A data processing system</u> according to claim 4 wherein said ~~user terminal~~ <u>first client work station</u> further comprises ~~an industry compatible~~ <u>a</u> personal computer and wherein said first one of said plurality of protocols ~~further comprises~~ <u>utilizes</u> Visual Basic <u>language</u>.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

    a. A first ~~user terminal~~ <u>client work station</u> which generates a first service request and an associated input view file using a first one of a plurality of protocols,

    b. A second ~~user terminal~~ <u>client work station</u> which generates a second service request and an associated input view file using a second one of said plurality of protocols wherein said second one of said plurality of protocols is different from and incompatible with said first one of said plurality of protocols,

    c. A ~~publicly accessible~~ digital data communication network ~~responsively~~ coupled to said first ~~user terminal~~ <u>client work station</u> and said second ~~user terminal~~ <u>client work station</u>;

    d. A generic gateway within a server ~~responsibly~~ coupled to said ~~publicly available~~ digital data communication network which converts said first service request and said second service request into an enterprise protocol which is not one of said plurality of protocols; and

e. An enterprise server which responds to said enterprise protocol ~~responsively~~ coupled to said generic server.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said server further comprises:

A plurality of adapters responsively coupled intermediate said ~~publicly available~~ digital data communication network and said generic gateway.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said ~~publicly accessible~~ digital communication network further comprises the world wide web.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~9~~ <u>8</u> wherein said server further comprises middleware and wherein said first service request ~~further comprise an~~ <u>utilizes</u> Active Server Page <u>language</u>.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~10~~ <u>9</u> wherein said ~~user terminal~~ <u>first client work station</u> further comprises an industry compatible personal computer operating under a commercially available operating system.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a plurality of transactions comprising:

a. Composing a first service request having a first input view file using a first of a plurality of formats;

b. Composing a second service request having a second input view file using a second of said plurality of formats;

c. Transferring said first service request via a ~~publicly accessible~~ digital data communication network to a first one of a plurality of adapters corresponding to said first of said plurality of formats and said second service request via said ~~publicly accessible~~ digital data communication network to a second one of a plurality of adapters corresponding to said second of said plurality of formats: and

d. Converting said first service request and said second service request into a standardized format for processing within a generic gateway within a server.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11 further comprising:

Transferring said converted and processed first service request and second service request from said generic gateway to an end service provider.

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13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said ~~publicly accessible~~ digital data communication network further comprises the Internet.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13 wherein said one of said plurality of formats ~~further comprises an~~ <u>utilizes</u> active server page <u>language</u>.

15. (Currently Available) A method according to claim 13 wherein said one of said plurality of formats ~~further comprises~~ <u>utilizes</u> a standard programming language.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

    a. first generating means for generating a first service request using a first one of a plurality of protocols;

    b. second generating means for generating a second service request using a second and different one of a plurality of protocols;

    c. transferring means responsively coupled to said generating means for transferring said first service request and said second service request via a ~~publicly accessible~~ digital data network;

    d. adapting means responsively coupled to said ~~publicly accessible~~ digital data network for adapting said first service

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request and said second service request to a standardized protocol using a different one of a plurality of adapters to convert said first service request and said second service request; and

e. processing means responsively coupled to said adapting means for processing said first service request and said second service request via a generic gateway.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising means responsively coupled to said processing means for transferring said first service request and said second service request to an end service provider via a plurality of connectors.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said one of said plurality of adapters corresponds to said one of said plurality of connectors.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said ~~publicly accessible~~ digital data communication network is the Internet.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said generating means further comprises an industry

compatible personal computer operating under a commercially

available operating system and wherein said first service request

~~further comprise~~ <u>utilizes</u> C++ <u>language</u>.